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B. CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for managing an adapter attached to a Fibre Channel network, said method comprising:  
 receiving a close request; and  
 setting the adapter to a quasi-open state in response to receiving the close request, wherein the setting includes maintaining the link in an open state and not toggling a fiber optic light source included with the adapter.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the setting further includes:

determining whether a link is in an open state between the adapter and the Fibre Channel network; and  
 maintaining the link in the open state.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the setting further includes maintaining a set of minimal resources.

Claim 5 (original) The method as described in Claim 4 wherein the minimal resources include one or more resources selected from the group consisting of a skeleton driver, a skeleton interrupt handler, and synchronous extended link services.

Claim 6 (original) The method as described in Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a message from a device attached to the Fibre Channel network while in the quasi-open state; and

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sending a reject message in response to the received message.

Claim 7 (original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the setting further comprises:

releasing extended resources corresponding with the adapter.

Claim 8 (original) The method as described in Claim 7 wherein the extended resources include one or more resources selected from the group consisting of SCSI structures, Fibre Channel command pool, Fibre Channel response pool, link event infrastructure, full-function interrupt handler, link statistics gatherer, and login device connections.

Claim 9 (original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the setting further comprises

determining a current state of the adapter, the current state selected from the group consisting of open, closed, and quasi-open.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;  
a memory accessible by the processors;  
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;  
a Fibre Channel adapter operable to connect the information handling system to a Fibre Channel network, wherein the Fibre Channel adapter includes an optic light source; and  
a link between the information handling system and the Fibre Channel network; and

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a Fibre Channel adapter program, the program including:  
 means for receiving a close request; and  
 means for setting the adapter to a quasi-open state in  
 response to receiving the close request, wherein the means for  
 setting includes means for maintaining the link in an open state  
 and not toggling the optic light source included with the  
 adapter.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The information handling system as  
 described in Claim 10 further comprising:

wherein the program further includes:

means for determining whether the link is in an open state.

~~and~~

~~means for maintaining the link in the open state while  
 setting the adapter in the quasi open state.~~

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (original) The information handling system as described  
 in Claim 10 wherein the means for setting further includes  
 maintaining a set of minimal resources.

Claim 14 (original) The information handling system as described  
 in Claim 13 wherein the minimal resources include one or more  
 resources selected from the group consisting of a skeleton  
 driver, a skeleton interrupt handler, and synchronous extended  
 link services.

Claim 15 (original) The information handling system as described  
 in Claim 14 further comprising:

a second memory accessible by the adapter,

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wherein at least one of the minimal resources is stored in the second memory.

Claim 16 (original) The information handling system as described in Claim 10 further comprising:

means for receiving a message from a device attached to the Fibre Channel network while in the quasi-open state; and

means for sending a reject message in response to the received message.

Claim 17 (original) The information handling system as described in Claim 10 wherein the means for setting further comprises:

releasing extended resources corresponding with the adapter.

Claim 18 (original) The information handling system as described in Claim 17 wherein the extended resources include one or more resources selected from the group consisting of SCSI structures, Fibre Channel command pool, Fibre Channel response pool, link event infrastructure, full-function interrupt handler, link statistics gatherer, and login device connections.

Claim 19 (original) The information handling system as described in Claim 10 wherein the setting further comprises means for determining a current state of the adapter, the current state selected from the group consisting of open, closed, and quasi-open.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A computer program product for managing an adapter attached to a Fibre Channel network, said computer program product comprising:

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means for receiving a close request; and  
 means for setting the adapter to a quasi-open state in response to receiving the close request, wherein the means for setting includes means for maintaining the link in an open state and means for not toggling a fiber optic light source included with the adapter.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in Claim 20 wherein the setting further includes:

means for determining whether a link is in an open state between the adapter and the Fibre Channel network, ~~and~~  
~~means for maintaining the link in the open state.~~

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (original) The computer program product as described in Claim 20 wherein the means for setting further includes means for maintaining a set of minimal resources.

Claim 24 (original) The computer program product as described in Claim 23 wherein the minimal resources include one or more resources selected from the group consisting of a skeleton driver, a skeleton interrupt handler, and synchronous extended link services.

Claim 25 (original) The computer program product as described in Claim 24 further comprising:

means for receiving a message from a device attached to the Fibre Channel network while in the quasi-open state; and  
 means for sending a reject message in response to the received message.

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Claim 26 (original) The computer program product as described in Claim 20 wherein the means for setting further comprises:

means for releasing extended resources corresponding with the adapter.

Claim 27 (original) The computer program product as described in Claim 20 wherein the setting further comprises determining a current state of the adapter, the current state selected from the group consisting of open, closed, and quasi-open.